REMARKS

This application has been further reviewed in light of the Office Action dated February 22, 2006. Claims 1 to 5, 7 to 20, 22 to 31, 33 to 43, 46 and 47 remain pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 5, 12, 16, 20, 27, 31, 38, 42, 43, 46 and 47 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 5, 7 to 11, 16 to 20, 22 to 26, 31, 33 to 37, 42, 46 and 47 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,581,092 (Motoyama), and Claims 12 to 15, 27 to 30, 38 to 41 and 43 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Motoyama in view of U.S. Publication No. 2004/0267892 (Kikinis). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

According to one aspect of the invention as claimed in Claims 1, 5, 16, 20, 31, 42, 46 and 47, the status of a device (e.g., a printer) is monitored such that a user can be informed of a change in status of the device (e.g., that an error has occurred, or that an ink cartridge needs to be exchanged) via email. As claimed, data is generated that causes a web browser of an external apparatus to display a setting screen for setting destination information which indicates the destination of the transmission data to be transmitted by electronic mail. Once the destination is set in the setting screen it is received by the device, and when a change of status occurs in the device, transmission data is generated according to an obtained message of the status and according to the received destination information. The generated transmission data is then transmitted as an electronic mail to the set destination.

With specific reference to the claims, amended independent Claim 1 is directed to a data transfer processing apparatus which controls data transfer in a device, comprising a status obtaining unit that obtains status information about a status of the device, a message obtaining unit that obtains a message according to the status information obtained by the status

obtaining unit, a transmission data generation unit that generates transmission data according to the message obtained by the message obtaining unit and according to destination information indicating a destination of the transmission data, an electronic mail transmission unit that transmits as electronic mail the transmission data generated by the transmission data generation unit, a data generation unit that generates data that causes a web browser of an external apparatus to display a setting screen, the setting screen being for setting the destination information which indicates the destination of the transmission data to be transmitted by the electronic mail transmission unit, a data transmission unit that transmits the data generated by the data generation unit to the external apparatus via a network, and a destination information reception unit that receives the destination information set with the setting screen from the external apparatus via the network.

Claims 16, 46 and 47 are device, method and computer medium claims, respectively, that substantially correspond to Claim 1.

Amended independent Claim 5 includes features along the lines of Claim 1, but is more specifically directed to a data transfer processing apparatus which controls data transfer in a device, comprising an information holding unit that holds setting information set for transmission of an electronic mail containing a message depending on a status of the device, a data generation unit that generates data that causes a web browser of an external apparatus to display a setting screen, the setting screen being for setting the setting information set for the transmission of the electronic mail by the data transfer processing apparatus, a data transmission unit that transmits the data generated by the data generation unit to the external apparatus via a network, and a setting information reception unit that receives the setting information set with the setting screen from the external apparatus via the network.

Claims 20, 31 and 42 are device, method and computer medium claims, respectively, that substantially correspond to Claim 5.

The applied art, alone or in any permissible combination, is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of Claims 1, 5, 16, 20, 31, 42, 46 and 47. More particularly, the applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of a device generating data that causes a web browser of an external apparatus to display a setting screen, the setting screen being for setting destination information which indicates a destination of the transmission data, which is generated according to an message obtained indicating a status of the device and according to the destination information indicating the destination of the transmission data to be transmitted by electronic mail.

Motoyama merely teaches that a computer connected to an external apparatus transmits electronic mail to a certain email address. Motoyama does not specify where or how the e-mail address is set, but it can be presumed from the recitation that the electronic mail processor is realized by a commercial mail program, such as Outlook Express (Microsoft) or Group Wise (Novell), that the setting screen for setting the address is displayed on a display unit of the computer. Nonetheless, Motoyama is not seen to generate data that causes a web browser of an external apparatus to display a setting screen, the setting screen being for setting destination information which indicates a destination of the transmission data, which is generated according to an message obtained indicating a status of the device and according to the destination information indicating the destination of the transmission data to be transmitted by electronic mail. Accordingly, independent Claims 1, 5, 16, 20, 31, 42, 46 and 47 are not believed to be anticipated by Motoyama.

Kikinis is not seen to teach anything that, when combined with Motoyama, overcomes the deficiencies of Motoyama. In this regard, Kikinis merely discloses that a

received e-mail is searched for certain words or phrases that match words or phrases stored in look-up table. However, Kikinis is not seen to add anything that, when combined with Motoyama, would have resulted in the feature of generating data that causes a web browser of an external apparatus to display a setting screen, the setting screen being for setting destination information which indicates a destination of the transmission data, which is generated according to an message obtained indicating a status of the device and according to the destination information indicating the destination of the transmission data to be transmitted by electronic mail transmission unit.

In view of the foregoing, independent Claims 1, 5, 16, 20, 31, 42, 46 and 47, as well as the claims dependent therefrom, are believed to be allowable.

In another, related aspect of the invention as claimed in Claims 12, 27, 38 and 43, the device (e.g., printer) obtains status information about each of a plurality of statuses of the device, and registers each of a plurality of reply destinations for sending a message via an e-mail transmission corresponding respectively to each of the plurality of statuses.

Referring specifically to the claims, amended independent Claim 12 is directed to a data transfer processing apparatus which controls data transfer in a device, comprising a status obtaining unit that obtains status information about each of a plurality statuses of the device, a message obtaining unit that obtains a message according to the status information obtained by the status obtaining unit, a registration unit that registers reply destination information indicating each of a plurality of reply destinations of an electronic mail different from a source of the electronic mail, the plurality of reply destinations being different from each other in correspondence to the respective plurality of statuses of the device, a transmission data generation unit that generates transmission data according to the message obtained by the message obtaining unit, according to destination information indicating a destination of the

electronic mail, and according to the reply destination information, wherein the generated transmission data includes the destination information and the reply destination information, and an electronic mail transmission unit that transmits as electronic mail the transmission data generated by the transmission data generation unit.

Claims 27, 38 and 43 are device, method, and computer medium claims, respectively, that substantially correspond to Claim 12.

The applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of Claims 12, 27, 38 and 43, and in particular, is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of a device registering reply destination information indicating each of a plurality of reply destinations of an electronic mail different from a source of the electronic mail, the plurality of reply destinations being different from each other and being in correspondence to a respective plurality of statuses of the device, and generating transmission data according to an obtained status message, according to destination information indicating a destination of the electronic mail, and according to the reply destination information.

Neither Motoyama or Kikinis are seen to disclose the foregoing features. Motoyama merely teaches sending status messages, but it not seen to register reply destination information that is different from a source of an electronic mail, much less registering a plurality of reply destinations corresponding respectively to a plurality of statuses of the device. Kikinis states that "an e-mail client application is provided that may be conveniently used by an agent who may receive e-mails addressed to different companies or organizations, and reply to such messages in a manner that different "from" and "reply to" addresses are inserted automatically as though the one agent were different agents of different organizations" (paragraph 0018). The foregoing merely means that one message has "from: organization A; reply to: organization A" addresses and another message has "from: organization B; reply to:

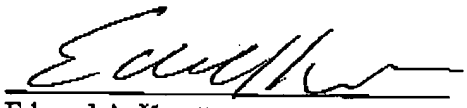
organization B" addresses, but does not send reply messages to a plurality of destinations corresponding respectively to a plurality of statuses. Kikinis therefore fails to teach or suggest anything that, when combined with Motoyama, would have resulted in the present invention.

In view of the foregoing, Claims 12, 27, 28 and 42, as well as the claims dependent therefrom, are believed to be allowable.

No other matters having been raised, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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